

Because the Official Action made the rejection of the pending claims final, consideration of this response pursuant to the expedited procedure for response after final rejection set forth at 1059 OG 19-20 respectfully is solicited.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for the isolation [production] of vitamin D₃ or previtamin D₃ from a mixture containing vitamin D₃ or previtamin D₃, [mixtures with other components, e.g., dehydrocholesterol, lumisterol and tachysterol,] which process comprises separating the vitamin D₃ or previtamin D₃ by column chromatography, wherein a mobile phase of the chromatography comprises supercritical carbon dioxide or liquid carbon dioxide.

2. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the mobile phase further comprises a modifier [carbon dioxide, which is selected from the group consisting of supercritical carbon dioxide and liquid carbon dioxide, and a modifier are used as the mobile phase].

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the mobile phase of the chromatography comprises supercritical carbon dioxide or liquid carbon dioxide. Support for this amendment is found in original claim 2, and in the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 9-23. *See In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l). Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the vitamin D₃ or previtamin D₃ is isolated from a mixture containing